Welfare fund for Workers

*631. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up welfare fund for agricultural workers and those employed in the salt industry, fish processing industry and fish farms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of workers as on the 31st March, 2002, alongwith the average work days available to the above categories of workers in a year, State-wise and categary-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has set up Welfare Funds for some categories of unorganised labour like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide some kind of social security cover to the unorganised workers in other sectors including salt industry, fish processing industry and fish farms etc. by exploring the possibility of constituting similar welfare fund mechanism. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government set up welfare fund for agricultural workers, but the Government has launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers in selected 50 districts over a span of 3 years. The scheme aims to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension and superannuation benefits. The agricultural worker is required to pay Re. 1/- per day or Rs. 365/- per year and the contribution of the Government is Rs. 2/- per day or Rs. 730/- per year per beneficiary.

(c) The State-wise details of number of workers in these categories as on 31st March, 2002 and average work days available to them in a year is not centrally maintained.

Trilateral Highway Project Connecting India, Thailand and Myanmar

*632. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any agreement has been signed between India, Thailand and Myanmar to launch a trilateral highway project linking